

Message Text

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ACTION SS-15

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TO USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1336

THE WHITE HOUSE

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 1858

USIA FOR PRESIDENTIAL TASK FORCE IOP/G AND ILA; WHITE HOUSE
FOR PRESS OFFICE

E.O. 11652: GDS

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL VISIT -- PROPOSED PRESS SCENARIO

REF: STATE 042626-C

1. USIS CARACAS AND VENEZUELAN INFORMATION MINISTRY PROPOSE THAT PRESIDENT CARTER'S ARRIVAL CEREMONY AT MAIQUETIA AIRPORT BE HELD ON TARMAC WITH RISERS FOR NEWSMEN, PHOTOGRAPHERS AND CAMERAMEN AND THAT SERIES OF SEPARATE POOLS BE DEVELOPED TO COVER PRESIDENT AT VARIOUS SITES IN CARACAS, AS WELL AS AT AIRPORT ITSELF, TO INSURE MAXIMUM COVERAGE.

2. REASONS FOR HOLDING ARRIVAL CEREMONY IN OPEN AIR, RATHER THAN IN AIRPORT TERMINAL, ARE THAT ORGANIZATION OF MOVEMENT AND CONTROL FROM POINT OF PRESIDENT, PRESS AND SECURITY WOULD BE MUCH SIMPLER; NATIONAL, INTERNATIONAL AND TRAVELING PRESS WILL HAVE MORE SPACE AND MORE FAVORABLE POSITIONS AND CAMERAMEN WILL HAVE BETTER ANGLES AT CLOSER RANGE; SECURITY WOULD BE MORE ASSURED, WITH NEWSMEN AND PHOTOGRAPHERS/CAMERAMEN ROPED INTO THEIR RISERS AND SURROUNDED BY SECURITY OFFICERS BEFORE AIR FORCE ON LANDS; AND LESS TIME WOULD BE REQUIRED
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SINCE PRESIDENT AND OTHERS IN MOTORCADE WOULD GO DIRECTLY TO THEIR AUTOMOBILIES ON TARMAC RATHER THAN HAVING TO ENTER AND LEAVE TERMINAL BUILDING. AND, ABOVE ALL, FROM A PSYCHOLOGICAL POINT OF VIEW, IT WAS AGREED THAT OUTSIDE CEREMONY WOULD ESTABLISH TONE OF THE VISIT AS BEGINNING IN AN OPEN, DEMOCRATIC ATMOSPHERE.

3. SUGGEST COVERAGE OF SITE EVENTS BY SERIES OF SEPARATE POOLS TO OVERCOME DISTANCES INVOLVED BETWEEN AIRPORT AND VARIOUS SITES AND BETWEEN THE SITES THEMSELVES, ALL OF WHICH MULTIPLIED BY MAJOR TRAFFIC CONGESTION.

4. OPPORTUNITIES FOR COVERAGE INCLUDE FOLLOWING SITES: AIRPORT ARRIVAL CEREMONY; WREATH LAYING AT SIMON BOLIVAR PANTHEON; PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS BEFORE CONGRESS; ARRIVAL AT MIRAFLORES AND POSSIBLY PHOTOGRAPHS AND MINI-CAM OPPORTUNITIES INSIDE BEFORE TALKS BEGIN; ARRIVAL AT LA CASONA AND OPPORTUNITIES AT STATE DINNER AND FOLLOWING ENTERTAINMENT; DEPARTURE FROM LA CASONA, INCLUDING POSSIBLE JOINT PRESIDENTIAL PRESS CONFERENCE (AS NOW PROPOSED BY VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT) AND FINALLY THE AIRPORT DEPARTURE ITSELF. (EXAMPLE: INFORMATION MINISTRY WILL TRY TO OBTAIN FOLLOWING SLOTS FROM CONGRESSIONAL PRESS OFFICE FOR COVERAGE OF PRESIDENT THERE--TWO STILL PHOTOGRAPHERS, TWO MINI-CAMS AND TEN WRITING NEWSMEN.)

5. GOING ON ASSUMPTION THAT PRESS PLANES WILL LAND AT LEAST THIRTY MINUTES BEFORE ARRIVAL OF AIR FORCE ONE, INFORMATION MINISTRY AND USIS PROPOSE FOLLOWING PROCEDURE:

--- THREE PRESS BUSES AND VEHICLES TO TAKE NEWSMEN TO VARIOUS SITES WHERE PRESIDENT IS EXPECTED TO APPEAR THAT AFTERNOON; THESE WOULD BE ON TARMAC ADJACENT TO SPOT WHERE PRESS PLANES ARE PARKED FOR DEBARKATION OF PASSENGERS.
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--- MOST OF PRESS WOULD BOARD BUSES WHICH WOULD TAKE THEM DIRECTLY TO PRESS CENTER IN CARACAS. EACH NEWSMAN WILL BE ASSIGNED TO A SPECIFIC BUS PRIOR TO LEAVING WASHINGTON AND HIS BUS WILL BE CLEARLY MARKED FOR HIM WHEN HE DEPLANES. NEWSMEN SHOULD BE ADVISED THAT ALL EVENTS AT EACH OF SITES WILL BE COVERED LIVE BY GOVERNMENT'S EXCELLENT TELEVISION NETWORK AND ALL ARRIVALS, DEPARTURES, CEREMONIES AND SPEECHES WILL BE SHOWN ON LARGE SCREENS IN NEWSROOM AT PRESS CENTER WITH SIMULTANEOUS TRANSLATION INTO ENGLISH. THE BEST PLACE TO COVER THE TRIP WILL BE FROM PRESS CENTER, WHICH WILL BE SPREAD OVER THREE LARGE STUDIOS IN GOVERNMENT-OWNED CHANNEL 8.

--- NEWSMEN MAKING UP PRE-DESIGNATED POOLS TO COVER EVENTS AT SITES WOULD BOARD THEIR CLEARLY-MARKED VEHICLES AND DEPART AIRPORT IMMEDIATELY FOR SPECIFIC SITES AND WOULD BE THERE AND IN PLACE WELL IN ADVANCE OF PRESIDENT'S ARRIVAL. ADDITIONALLY, A POOL WOULD BE DESIGNATED TO COVER AIRPORT ARRIVAL CEREMONY AND NEWSMEN MAKING UP THAT POOL WOULD PROCEED DIRECTLY FROM AIRPLANE TO RISERS NEAR PRESIDENT'S PLATFORM. FOLLOWING THE CEREMONY, NEWSMEN IN THAT POOL WOULD BE ESCORTED TO A SPECIAL PRESS ROOM INSIDE AIRPORT TERMINAL WHERE THEY COULD

FILE THEIR REPORTS BY TELEX OR TELEPHONE. FOLLOWING THAT, THEY WOULD BE TAKEN TO PRESS CENTER IN CARACAS. EACH PRESS POOL WILL BE HAVE AN EXPERIENCED BILINGUAL FSIO AS ESCORT OFFICER. THE PRESS BUSES WILL BE UNDER COMMAND OF A SENIOR FSIO. EQUIPPED WITH HAND-CARRIED RADIO FOR COMMUNICATING WITH POST'S PRESS COORDINATOR AND WITH USIS BASE AND PRESS ROOM. EACH BUS WILL HAVE ABOARD A BILINGUAL USIS EMPLOYEE AND AN OFFICIAL FROM MINISTRY OF INFORMATION.

--- WHEN EACH OF PRESS POOLS ARRIVE AT THEIR DESIGNATED SITES, NEWSMEN WILL BE FURTHER ASSISTED BY USIS OFFICER ALREADY ON LOCATION AS SITE OFFICER TO ASSURE BEST POSSIBLE LOCATION FOR TRAVELING NEWSMEN.

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6. SPECIFIC DETAILS ABOUT SIZE AND NUMBER OF SITE POOLS WILL FOLLOW WHEN SCHEDULE IS IN MORE FINAL FORM. TO INSURE FULLEST UNDERSTANDING OF THIS SYSTEM, POST WOULD SEND TO WASHINGTON ONE OFFICER TO WORK WITH AGENCY'S PRESIDENTIAL TASK FORCE AND WHITE HOUSE PRESS OFFICE AND ACCOMPANY NEWSMEN ON PRESS PLANE TO VENEZUELA, WHERE HE THEN WOULD BECOME A PRINCIPAL POOL ESCORT OFFICER.

KEY

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